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CATHOLIC COLONIZATION

IN

MINNESOTA.

COLONY OF AVOCA,

MURRAY COUNTY, SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA.

PUBLISHED BY

THE CATHOLIC COLONIZATION BUREAU,

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE RIGHT REV. JOHN IRELAND,
COADJUTOR BISHOP OF ST. PAUL.

ST. PAUL, MINN., DECEMBER, 1880.

THE PIONEER PRESS CO.
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CATHOLIC COLONIZATION IN MINNESOTA.

COLONY OF AVOCA, MURRAY COUNTY.

The rapid growth and prosperity of our Catholic Colonies in Minnesota, more than keeping pace with the healthy growth and general prosperity of the State, make it necessary for the Catholic Colonization Bureau to continually revise, alter, and supplement the information it has already published for the benefit of *intending immigrants.* We wish to emphasize these words *intending immigrants*, for we have no desire that those with comfortable, respectable homes already, should break up those homes and come west, influenced to do so by the truthful information we have undertaken the grave responsibility of giving for the benefit of the struggling, industrious many, who have no such homes nor any prospect of securing them in their present employments and locations.

When persons of ample means, influenced by circumstances applicable to individual cases, come to us and take farms in any of our colonies, (we have such,) we welcome them, and rejoice when they tell us that they are well satisfied with the change; but we caution people, rich and poor alike, from making imaginary fancy pictures from the facts we lay before them.

This caution is necessary for our own protection and the protection of those placing full confidence in us; and it is to those necessary, conscientious, plain cautions which we have given in every publication issued by the Bureau, that we attribute the gratifying fact, that among the thousands who have come here on our invitation, not more than one per cent. returned dissatisfied: a most extraordinary fact to those experienced in immigration matters.

We will devote this paper exclusively to the Catholic Colony of Avoca, Murray County, southwestern Minnesota. In none of our colonies have more gratifying changes taken place, nor is there elsewhere more cheering evidence of advancement and contentment.

Farther on we will allow the Avoca settlers to speak for themselves. We will give their words taken down as they spoke them in the presence of Father Nugent, of Liverpool—whom to name is to do one-self honor—in the presence of Mr. James H. Tuke, of Hitchin, England, and in the presence of other distinguished visitors. All those gentlemen—some of them from Ireland and some from England—came to this country and to our colonies to judge for themselves as to the progress of the latter, the condition, sentiments, and prosperity of the settlers, in order to encourage or discourage emigration to Minnesota and to our colonies.

They frankly intimated to us that they had our side of the story already from our published pamphlets, circulars and letters; had perfect confidence in our statements so far as they themselves were concerned; still before advising others they felt it to be incumbent on them to see and hear for themselves. For this we honor them, and have given them every assistance to carry out their wishes.

SOUTHWESTERN MINNESOTA.

In no other part of the State has the value of land risen more rapidly than in the southwestern part, where Avoca Colony is situated. The average increase in the price of railroad lands has gone up fully two dollars an acre since Bishop Ireland made a contract with the railroad company for the lands within the present bounds of the colony; and at those increased figures the railroad company have found no difficulty in disposing of hundreds of thousands of acres this season, to capitalists and settlers.

The following extracts, taken from an article on Southwestern Minnesota, published in 1878, and given in our pamphlet for 1879 with the remark that allowance should be made for the high coloring of the writer, the experience of the last two years has in all essentials justified. Here are the extracts.

"Southwestern Minnesota has made rapid progress in stock raising. As capital increases, and the utility and profit of stock raising becomes better understood by the farmers, we shall see fine flocks and herds, in addition to the fields of waving grain, and our rich prairies teeming with the life they can so amply sustain. The abundance of clear, sweet water, dry atmosphere, its elevation, rich pasturage, freedom from disease, and direct and ready access to all the prominent markets, unite to make Minnesota the paradise of stock raisers. Good hay can be put in the stack in Southwestern Minnesota for $1.25 per ton. It can be secured without other expense than cutting, and with very little

labor, enough can be made for the maintenance of a large amount of stock. * * * * * *

"This section has been settled but seven years, yet it is already teeming with a population of wide-awake, industrious people, whose fields are evidences of the innate wealth of the region. The soil of Southwestern Minnesota is adapted to the successful cultivation of grain, and so celebrated has its grain-producing qualities become, that capitalists have put their money into large tracts of land, and have now immense fields under cultivation, and their investments have proven extremely profitable. There are farms of 600, 1000 and 2000 acres, all producing Minnesota's great staple, wheat. Every year, as the success of these investments becomes known, new and large farms are opening. * *

"Southwestern Minnesota is on the move, and to those who wish to locate in a thriving, driving, pushing, growing country, no locality of the green earth promises more faithfully, and none will redeem its pledges with greater pride to the wide-awake, stirring husbandman. The very soil teems with wealth, and the air is laden with the most precious gifts of health."

AVOCA COLONY.

In the very heart of the section of country thus described and in our judgment, its very garden, is the Colony of Avoca, in Murray County, 165 miles southwest of St. Paul, the capital of the state.

While the beauty of the location and fertility of the soil, make Avoca one of the most desirable locations in Minnesota, the easy terms on which a farm can be secured, are additional and substantial advantages for men of small means.

Certainly no such terms could be now secured from the railroad company—the owner of the land—as was secured under contract by Bishop Ireland in 1878, which contract still holds good, and all the advantages of which are transferred by the Bureau to the settlers.

When Avoca Colony was opened, the lands were twenty miles from any railroad station. No railroad, no depot, no market nearer than twenty miles, no settlements but a few claim shanties on government lands scattered over the prairie; now we have in Avoca Colony two railroads running right through the colony lands, three railroad depots, and two growing railroad towns.

TOWNS OF AVOCA AND FULDA.

The growth of these towns might, in a measure, be taken as a

proof of the prosperity of the settlements around them; we will treat of both separately; and it should be borne in mind, in connection with our review of the present state of the colony, that settlement on the colony lands did not commence to any extent before June, 1878, although it had been located and opened a few months before.

The town of Avoca, laid out in the spring of 1878, is picturesquely situated near a beautiful lake on the Black Hills Branch of the St. Paul and Sioux City Railroad. On the southeast shore of the lake stands the town, with the settlers' farms scattered around; and on the opposite shore, Mr. Daniel Murphy, of Cork, Ireland, has erected a very handsome cottage with out-offices, having purchased from the Bureau 240 acres of as fine land as there is in Minnesota. As game—prairie chickens, ducks, geese, snipe, plover, &c., abound in and around the lake, we expect to see Avoca within a few years a favorite resort for sportsmen and tourists; already the former have found it out, and the baggage car of the Avoca train is at this season, crowded with the produce of their guns, going to distant friends or market as the case may be.

The town has two general country stores, grocery and restaurant, drug store, hardware store, furniture store, shoe store, first-class hotel—one of the handsomest country hotels in Minnesota—two second-class hotels, blacksmith shop, carpenter's shop, lumber yard, machinery and grain warehouse, ten private residences, post office, telegraph and express offices, also church, school house and resident priest.

Mr. John Riggs opened the first store in Avoca, therefore we interviewed him, and give here a synopsis of our interview.

"When did you come here, Mr. Riggs?

"In January, 1879."

"How much capital did you bring with you?"

"Not much" (laughing).

"How much?"

"About $200, but I put $500 more to this afterwards, making my capital $700."

"What is your present standing?"

"I consider my building and stock worth four thousand dollars."

"Any grumblers here?"

"A few, as there are in every place, but fewer here than any other place I have been, and when you argue with a grumbler here he has to back down on the very objection he started on."

Fulda, the spirited rival of Avoca, and the younger by some

months, is situated in the southeastern part of the colony, six miles from the town of Avoca, on the main line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad. Two tiny lakes bound the town on the south, and the lay of the land around and quality of soil is not surpassed in Minnesota. Being on the main line of the Southern Minnesota Railroad, as it passes on to the gold mines of the Black Hills, Dakota Territory, it is destined to be the shipping point for the farm produce of the country tributary to it, on its way to the great markets of Milwaukee and Chicago, the latter the greatest grain market in the world.

The town now contains five general stores, three hotels, two grain elevators, railroad depot, engine house (four engine stalls, Fulda being a division station,) coal shed (250 feet long,) lumber yard, printing and newspaper office (Fulda Farmer,) law office, doctor's office, drug store, wagon shop, shoe shop, harness shop, school house, and twenty private houses.

The largest store in the town is owned by Mr. John Smith. The building is 40x84 feet, two stories high; value of stock at present in the store $7000; average monthly sales, $1500.

INTERVIEWS WITH THE FARMERS.

Now we will let some of the settlers speak for themselves, giving —as nearly as possible, in their own words—their views in regard to land, soil, prospects, work done, and feelings in general, premising that there were no arrangements made for these interviews. Our visitors came without notice, had but a limited time to remain, and we endeavored to let them see as many of the settlers and their farms as possible.

The first farm visited was that of Mr. Joseph Hurst, situated about three miles from the town of Avoca. Mr. Hurst is an English Catholic, an intelligent agriculturist, who up to the time of his leaving England, cultivated a small farm within twelve miles of Liverpool.

"When did you arrive in Avoca, Mr. Hurst?" we asked.

"Last April. I had a capital of $500, a wife and four children. Made a contract for 160 acres of land, where we are now. Made first year's payment, put up this little house, 16x20, cost $40; bought a yoke of oxen, a cow, two pigs; broke 30 acres of land; had sod corn, potatoes and turnips in six acres."

"What are your prospects?"

"Oh, the country will do when we get settled up."

"Are you glad of the change?"

"Yes, very glad. There is a grand chance for an industrious man here. It is capital soil, as good as I ever saw; not so strong perhaps as the soil I was used to, but better for crops and easier worked."

"Now, Mr. Hurst, you brought here with you last April, $500, and have done all you say. Will you now take $1000 and walk out."

"No."

"Well, $1500?"

"No, but I think the mistress would; she is sometimes lonely."

Turning to Mrs. Hurst we asked, "Are you lonely?"

"At first I was" she answered, "but I know now the change is all for the best."

"This is a good country" said Mr. Hurst, "for an industrious man, plenty of room: why the farm I had in England, for which I paid six pounds an acre annual rent, would only make a good garden here."

"How about water?"

"Two days work will give you good well water" he answered.

Mr. Hurst was back-setting or replowing the land he had broken last summer, preparing it for crop next spring, when we called upon him. His plowing was splendid. He is an intelligent, industrious, sober man, who does his own thinking and works it out. He will be a great success on his Avoca farm, as he would be any where else with room and opportunity.

The next settler visited was Mr. John McDonnell, an experienced farmer, now farming in Avoca Colony a half section or 320 acres of land. We found him busy plowing his land, and returned with him to his comfortable house, which cost him between $400 and $500.

He informed us that he had put 120 acres under crop last spring, including 80 acres of flax.

"How did the flax turn out?" we asked.

"Well," he replied; "it was the second crop grown on the land. We had here this year the best flax crop grown in America, mine when threshed, will go from 22 to 25 bushels to the acre. Judging from this year, I would say we have as fine soil for flax as any in the country."

"What about your wheat: you had some?"

"Yes, it was good, 18 bushels to the acre; oats 60 bushels. When I break more land I will sow clover and get into sheep raising. They will do splendidly; and as for cattle, they actually fatten,

fit for the butcher, on wild grass and hay without any other feed. Farming is a complete success here; but if farmers go off working for others, and neglect their own plowing, they will have a crop of weeds and little grain."

"You are well satisfied, Mr. McDonnell?"

"Well I want to get half section (320 acres) more of land."

And with this most characteristic western answer written down, we closed our note book and journeyed on to the farm of Timothy Crowley, who came here from Boston, Mass., in 1878.

Mr. Crowley was almost the first settler in the colony; he was from home, but his wife informed us that "They brought with them from the East about $600. They had now a comfortable house, yoke of oxen, cow and six pigs. They had taken up 40 acres of government land on which their house was built, and 80 acres of colony lands; they had good crops this year, but they were injured by the rain. They were well satisfied."

"What would you sell out for now?" was asked: laughing, she answered, "We would not sell out, at all events for what we laid out."

Stepping lightly over the prairie and looking as if a large portion of it belonged to him, we met Mr. Thos. Ed. Price, who arrived in Avoca last May, from Tipperary, Ireland, with a great deal of good blood in his veins and very little money in his pocket. Young gentlemen like Mr. Price, brought up in idleness at home, had better not come here unless they have the right manly stuff which he has shown. Like a man, he took off his coat, went to work with a farmer, and now has engaged a farm for himself, with fifty acres broken on it.

No one is more despised in the West than an idle gentleman; no one more respected than the young fellow, delicately brought up, who with a manly spirit goes to work and changes his soft hands into strong rough ones, developing by so doing his moral and physical strength.

Also met Mr.——, who arrived in the colony last June, from Ireland, and who has taken up 80 acres of land. We were informed that this man was discontented and were therefore glad to have an opportunity to interview him; but when we pulled out our note book and began asking him questions he grew quite suspicious.

"What do you want to write down?" he asked. "I don't want to have my name in any paper."

"Well, the truth is," we replied, "we are hearing their own stories from the settlers, and as we have only heard good ones up to

this, and are told you have a bad one, let us have it for variety; but as you wish it we won't give your name.

"Well, I'm discouraged."

"Why so?"

"Well, I had to pay for the breaking of my land, and now I will have to pay for the fall plowing, and have got nothing out of it yet."

"Why surely you did not expect to get a crop until you sowed the seed."

"Oh, no; but you see it's a long time to wait."

"Well, you must settle that with nature. Have you been working?"

"Yes, I am a carpenter, and can get plenty of work, but I had to leave my work because my wife was sick, and she is not well yet. I am getting discouraged."

"What are you discouraged at?"

This he could not tell, but repeated that he was discouraged. We mention this case for the benefit of those it may be a warning to. This man may come out all right when he has his first crop, or he may move off, going from place to place "*discouraged.*" Our experience teaches us that the safest and most satisfactory course (for all concerned) for a man easily discouraged to take, is to remain discouraged at home.

The next man we interviewed was the very opposite to Mr.——.

"Now, Mr. Walsh, we want you to tell us all you know about your farm and the colony lands in general."

Ed. Walsh, a good type of an old western frontier farmer, gave us a free and easy look as he answered, "I guess I know a good deal more about land than you do; no offence."

"Not a doubt about it, Mr. Walsh, therefore we have come to you for information."

"Well, I have been farming in America for forty years, and my opinion is that we have a fine farming country here. I have bought half a section (320 acres) of land, broke 40 acres, put up a house and offices at a cost of $800. You would say I was five years here if you saw my place. I'll show some of the fellows here how to farm, and if you come on in another year, I'll tell you exactly how I feel and what I think."

Daniel O'Connell, a young Hercules from Cork, Ireland, who came out here last summer, the saddest man we ever met at leaving his country, was a settler we were very anxious to see; for his down-right sorrow when we met him before, was really pitiable.

We were told now that he was completely changed, but only met him by chance at the railroad depot, for a short time.

He was indeed a changed man, delighted beyond measure with America and the colony, where he had secured 80 acres of land.

One of the gentlemen of our party who was from the same part of Ireland as O'Connell, asked him, if he was pleased with this country; and his answer was:

"It is the finest country for the poor man and for the rich man in the world."

O'Connell informed us that exclusive of the work he did on his own farm, he earned $40 during the harvest working for others.

The next settler interviewed was Mr. Daniel Murphy, from the county Cork, Ireland, who after spending one winter in Canada, came on to Avoca in the spring, and bought 240 acres of land. We have already made mention of this gentleman as having a handsome cottage residence on the banks of Avoca Lake. He is an educated gentleman, a scientific farmer, with a most interesting family and accomplished wife.

Mr. Murphy informed us that he was greatly pleased with his prospects. "I observe much," he said, "and have made my calculations."

"How much land did you break this year?" we asked.

"Sixty acres, in which I will put wheat, oats, flax and corn, I will want the corn for sheep and cattle. With good cultivation we can produce fine crops here. The crops were good here this year, where the land was well cultivated and the seed put in at the proper time. I will salt my wheat when it is up, and then roll it.

"How much did your house and offices cost you?"

"$1300."

"How about your garden on your new breaking?"

"Every thing was good—cabbages, potatoes, carrots and rutabagas, all first class. There is no doubt but that a good crop of flax can be raised the first year on the new breaking. I tried a little patch of oats, and I am confident that oats too can be raised on breaking. If I knew when I came here as much as I do now I would have had a fair crop this the first year on my land."

FLAX CULTURE—A CROP THE FIRST YEAR.

Here we will notice a very valuable discovery made lately by the farmers in southwestern Minnesota.

Flax culture is of a very recent date in Minnesota. Not until

a flax company was established in the State, with the object of encouraging the cultivation of this crop, the company supplying the farmers with the seed on time and contracting to buy the produce at a remunerative price—was there any amount of it sown.

Now that its cultivation has become more general, it is discovered that it grows well on the new breaking, the first year, that by breaking early in May, one can have a fair crop of flax, and that by so doing the sod will be better rotted and the land more mellow for the next year's crop than if left in fallow. If this is so—and the evidence in favor of it seems indisputable—then the heretofore great drawback to a poor man taking new land and having to wait one year before having a grain crop, is entirely done away with: hereafter he can have a good marketable crop the first year, besides his vegetables. The present price of flax seed is from $1 to $1.25, a bushel

The following statistics were furnished to us by the Rev. Charles Koeberl, the resident priest and agent of the colony. Father Koeberl's address is Avoca, Murray County, Minnesota.

Within the colony bounds there are 60,000 acres of colony lands, exclusive of an equal quantity of government lands settled on by people of various nationalities, between whom and the colony settlers there is the best of feeling. Of the 60,000 acres there are about 30,000 sold.

Around the railroad station of Iona, west of Fulda, the Rev. M. McDonnell, of Batavia, New York, has secured a large tract of land for the purpose of establishing there an orphan asylum and agricultual school for boys. There will be a Catholic church at Iona, one at Fulda, and another in the northeast part of the colony; these, with the present church at Avoca, will make four churches in the colony, and the most distant settler will not be more than five miles from a church: the majority of the settlers being only from one to four miles from a church. The temporary church at Avoca is entirely too small for the congregation, who are anxious to put up a larger and better one. It would be difficult to find a better dressed or more intelligent congregation attending any rural church on this continent, than the one we saw at Avoca, and we cannot call to mind any country church in this State with so fine a choir.

The lands of the colony are unsurpassed by any in this State for general farming. The soil is a dark loam, with a clay subsoil, warm and rich, good for all varieties of crops; while the abundance of wild hay—scarcely a quarter section without its broad patch of

natural meadow—together with the good supply of water, in every part of the colony, from lakes, creeks, and the Des Moines River—render diversified farming—part agriculture, part stock and sheep raising—most desirable and without doubt most profitable. This is the kind of farming that pays best, with less labor and expense; and we are glad to know that the settlers in Avoca Colony are anxious to engage in it. A place better adapted for it could not be found.

TERMS OF LAND SALE.

We have spoken of the easy terms on which lands can be had in the colony, we will now go briefly into detail.

The lands sell at from $5.50 an acre to $7 on time contracts, with 20 per cent. taken off for cash. Thus, if a man buys land at $6 per acre, and pays cash, he has his land at $4.80 an acre.

On time contracts the following are the terms:

At the time of purchase, interest only, one year in advance, seven per cent., is required; at the end of one year, interest only for another year; at the end of two years, one-tenth of the principal, and a year's interest on the balance; at the end of three years, one-tenth of the principal, and interest on balance; at the end of each year thereafter, twenty per cent. of the principal, and interest on balance, until all is paid.

We subjoin a practical illustration of these terms:

We will say that January, 1881, a man contracts for 80 acres of land at $6 per acre, this will come to $480, with 7 per cent. interest, which sums he will have to pay as follows:

Jan. 1, 1881.	At time of purchase, one year's interest in advance, at 7 per cent. -		$33 60
Jan. 1, 1882.	One year's interest, - - - -		33 60
Jan. 1, 1883.	Ten per cent. of principal, - -	$48 00	
	Interest on balance, - -	30 24	
			78 24
Jan. 1, 1884.	Ten per cent. of principal, - -	48 00	
	Interest on balance, - -	26 88	
			74 88
Jan. 1, 1885.	Twenty per cent. of principal, -	96 00	
	Interest on balance, - -	20 16	
			116 16
Jan. 1, 1886.	Twenty per cent. of principal, -	96 00	
	Interest on balance, - -	13 44	
			109 44
Jan. 1, 1887.	Twenty per cent. of principal, -	96 00	
	Interest on balance, - -	6 72	
			102 72
Jan. 1, 1888.	Twenty per cent. of principal, -		96 00
	Land paid for, Total - - -		$644 64

Of course it is always better and safer when it can be done, to pay cash for the land. By getting 20 per cent. off the price, a man makes a good investment if he never comes onto the land, and getting his deed at once he has no more trouble.

But the majority of poor men cannot buy for cash, and we have endeavored to do the next best thing for them—to get them good time contracts.

The advantage of the terms we have secured is, that the principal payments are all postponed until the farmer has had time to raise several crops from his land. A quarter-section of land will support a family, pay for itself, leave after seven years a balance in cash, and be worth more than twice its original value.

We have already selected several 80 and 160 acre farms in Avoca for persons not in a position to come on immediately to the land. Now let us explain how this operates.

An intending immigrant writes to the Bureau to have 80 acres of land in Avoca at $6 per acre, selected for him. For those 80 acres, he pays down, before getting his contract from the railroad company, one year's interest, $33.60. He writes on then, next spring, to the Bureau, to have 30 acres of his land broken and ready for a crop the following spring—1882. His breaking will cost at $2.50 per acre, $75. He will have paid the first year $108,-60 and have his land ready for the seed; he comes on then the second spring, 1882, pays $33.60, another year's interest, to the railroad company, puts in his crop and has it saved and ready for market in August. Up to this time, not calculating the expenses chargeable to the crop, he has paid out $142.20, and has his farm open and in a fair way to pay for itself.

MR. JOHN SWEETMAN'S PURCHASE OF LANDS ADJOINING AVOCA COLONY.

In connection with the colony of Avoca, we have to make mention of a most cheering and gratifying fact. Mr. John Sweetman, of Drumbaragh, Kells, County Meath, Ireland, a gentleman of affluent means, induced first to inquire into the subject of Catholic colonization by reading our pamphlet published in 1879, and with no object but the pure religious one of doing good, has now after paying two visits to this country within the last six months, and receiving from the Right Rev. Bishop Ireland every information on the subject of Catholic colonization, and every opportunity to investigate its working—purchased in Murray County, for cash, 20,000 acres of choice land, commencing on the north line of Avoca

Colony and running to within three miles of Tracy, a railroad town and station on the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad.

Mr. Sweetman, having made all necessary arrangements here, has just returned to Ireland to bring over in the spring his first batch of Irish emigrants, numbering sixty families: others will follow, until every acre of this splendid tract of land is occupied by Irish settlers direct from Ireland; and we look forward to seeing much larger tracts bought up through Mr. Sweetman's influence.

We make this imperfect notice here of a great and good undertaking, merely to show the advantage and strength our Avoca Colony will derive from it. We have already secured large tracts of land for our people in Murray County, and here is now a splendid tract, adjoining our colony in the same county, and running up to the county line, bought by an Irish gentleman for the purpose of peopling it with Irish settlers.

The meaning of this is, that our people will, within a very short time, be the possessors of one of the fairest counties in Minnesota, where there will be an opening for the young, ambitious man to win honor and position; for the enterprising man to accumulate capital; for the poor, industrious man to secure an honest, independent home; and for us all to show to the world, that with fair play we can advance with the swiftest and rise with the highest.

Much as has been done, we deem now that the purchase of lands in southwestern Minnesota, for the purpose of Catholic colonization, has only got fairly under way. Men of wealth, influence, and position in this country and in Europe, are becoming actively interested in the subject, and we expect to have the happiness of seeing our humble efforts far outstripped in the near future.

FARM STATISTICS.

How much capital would I require to start on a new farm?

This is a question continually put to us by correspondents. The following figures will show the least amount we deem it necessary for the new settler to have. We do not recommend a man with any less to come; on the contrary, we caution him that if he comes with less, it must be at his own risk.

At the same time we know of a man who settled in one of our colonies two years ago with a capital of eighteen dollars, cut the past harvest on his own land some forty or fifty acres of wheat, and told Father Nugent, he would not take $1500 for his place. We would back this man with a hoe against the discouraged man

with a thousand dollars, and would have little doubt as to which of them would come out ahead.

Here are our figures:

We will take up the poor man's case first, as it is the one we have the most interest in, and we land him on his farm in the spring.

He puts up a very cheap house; by and by he will have a better one—but in the meantime he can make this one comfortable, warm and clean—much better than a cheap lodging in a city.

We will give the dimensions of the house as 16x18 ft., to be built of single boards; these to be sodded on the outside to any depth the owner may wish. In this way, he can have a house far warmer than a poorly put up frame house, at the following cost:

1,600 feet of lumber,	$25 00
2 windows, 2 doors,	6 50
Shingles,	7 25
Total,	$38 75

N. B.—It must be understood that is a poor man's temporary house, which he can add to and improve little by little.

Now we must furnish the house:

HOUSE FURNITURE.

Cooking stove,	$25 00
Crockery,	5 00
Chairs,	2 00
Table,	2 00
3 bedsteads,	9 00
Total,	$43 00

CATTLE AND FARMING IMPLEMENTS.

He buys a breaking yoke of oxen, weighing from 3,200 to 3,400 lbs. at about,	$100 00
Breaking plow,	23 00
Wagon,	75 00
Total,	$198 00

Then he goes to work and breaks up early in May, five acres for garden, ten for a flax crop, and twenty-five acres more in June, giving him forty acres ready for his next year's crop.

His vegetables grown on the sod will go a far way to support

him, and his ten acres of flax will likely bring him in cash, $100 the first year.

WHAT IT WILL COST HIM TO LIVE.

For a family of four, 30 bushels of wheat, ground into flour, at $1. a bushel,	$30 00
Groceries,	15 00
1 cow for milk,	25 00
Fuel,	30 00
Total,	$100 00

HOW HE STANDS THE SECOND SPRING.

He has laid out, for a house,	$38 75
For fuel,	30 00
" Furniture,	43 00
" Cattle and farming implements,	198 00
Cost of living, including price of cow,	100 00
Total,	$409 75

He has a set-off against this, $100 for his flax crop raised on the sod, and about $40 he can earn during harvest. Nevertheless we cannot advise him to come with a less capital than four hundred dollars and to this he must add in his calculations, his expenses coming here.

SECOND YEAR'S EXPENSES.

One drag to put in the crop, shaking the seed by hand,	$12 00
Seed wheat for forty acres,	60 00
Hires his grain cut and bound,	60 00
Shocking and stacking, &c., &c., done by exchanging work with neighbors.	
Machine threshing at 5 cents a bushel,	40 00
Extra labor done by exchanging work.	
Total,	$172 00

We have now come down to the harvest and the second year on the land.

Up to this the settler's expenses have been $581 75.

Let us see what the land is likely to set off against this sum.

We will base our calculations on a wheat crop as the most convenient. We expect of course that the settler will have a variety of crops.

40 acres of wheat, 20 bushels to the acre, one dollar a bushel,	$800 00
Charges against crop,	581 75
	$218 25

Adding to this $100 received for flax the year before, and $40 that he earned same year, the settler has in hand the second year, after paying all expenses, $358 25

He has this sum realized after supporting his family for sixteen months, his home made, stock paid, his farm open and at least $300 *added to the value of his land.*

CASH EXPENSES,

for 50 acres, where a man hires all his work done. He may prefer to do this, to buying cattle or horses to break, as he may be a man who can earn high wages, until his first crop comes in.

Breaking 50 acres, at $2.50 per acre,	$125 00
Seed wheat,	75 00
Seeding and dragging, at 90 cents per acre,	45 00
Cutting and binding, $1.50 per acre,	75 00
Stacking, five days, two men and team,	25 00
Threshing and hauling to market, at 12 cents a bushel,	120 00
Cash expenses of crop,	$465 00

CREDITS.

Fifty acres of wheat, 20 bushels to the acre, at $1 per bushel,	$1,000 00
Charged to the crop,	465 00
Balance in favor of crop,	$535 00

Now, the expense of breaking, by right, should not be charged to the first crop, for it is a permanent value, added to the value of the land, and should be calculated as capital: 50 acres broken on a farm of a 160, adds full $2 an acre to the value of the property.

But in the above calculation, we have not alone charged the first crop with the breaking expenses, but also with the cash price of every dollar's worth of labor expended, until the wheat is in the railroad elevator, and the owner has nothing more to do, unless to receive his money for it; and yet there is a clear profit over all expenses of $535.00.

In making these calculations, it is necessary to put a certain

value on the wheat per bushel, and to allow for a certain amount of bushels to the acre, but it will be obvious to any reader that in both these important items there are continual variations. Taking the average of many years' crops and prices, our calculations are as near correct as they can be made.

SECOND CALCULATION OF HOUSE BUILDING.

In our calculation of the smallest sum a man would require, coming to settle on the land, we made an estimate of a very cheap house indeed, nevertheless one that can be made warmer than many a more expensive one. We give an estimate of the cost of a frame house 16x24, a story and a half high, with a T addition, and a cellar 12 by 16.

We give the exact expenses of a house of this kind as it stands at present in one of our colonies. It has three rooms up stairs with a hall, two rooms down stairs with a hall and pantry, and has had one coat of plaster.

Material for house,	$280
Work,	75
Total,	$355

A man himself helping, can lessen this item for work, say $25, leaving the cost of the house $330.

In our first calculation we put down as the lowest sum a man would require to have after his arrival on the land, $409.75. But in this calculation we gave him a house, such as it was, for $38.75. Now, if he wants the better house we have just described, his capital should be $726.

WHAT A MAN WITH MODERATE CAPITAL CAN DO.

We now come to the case of a man with moderate capital, who wishes to start with a complete outfit of farming machinery, &c. Coming in the spring, in time to commence breaking by the end of May, he buys

Three Horses,	$375 00
One sulky plow—seat for driver, breaker attachment,	70 00
Seeder,	65 00
Harrow	12 00
Harvester and self-binder,	285 00
Horse rake and mower,	125 00
Wagon,	75 00
Total,	$1,007 00

N. B.—It is calculated that the grain saved by the self-binder over hand work pays for the wire used in binding, and in labor 50 cents an acre is saved, besides the board of two men. We will soon have twine and straw binders perfected, an improvement which will do away with the expense of wire altogether.

With a sulky plow and three horses, our farmer breaks 100 acres of land, and puts it under wheat the following year.

He has been already at an outlay for horses and machinery, of	$1,007 00
Seed wheat costs	150 00
Shocking and stacking	70 00
Threshing and hauling, using his three horses, 10 cents a bushel,	200 00
Total,	$1,427 00

CREDITS.

2,000 bushels of wheat,	$2,000 00
Hay cut by mower,	200 00
	$2,200 00
Expenses,	1,427 00
Balance in favor of crop,	$773 00

Now, it will be borne in mind, that we have charged the first crop with horses and machinery, property that, by right, should come under the head of capital; we have charged it with what will work the farm for years, and help to produce successive crops, not of one hundred acres, but of two or three hundred acres; and yet, with all the charges, the crop shows a profit of $773.

What other business can make such a showing as this?

And yet we have made no mention of the industry which will bring in the most reliable profit to the farmer in the coming years, when the hurry and expense of opening a new farm are things of the past, viz., stock and sheep farming.

REMARKS.

Be it remembered, that while we give certain figures for crops and prices, we do not guarantee their fulfillment in all cases. By no means.

It will require good farming—no scraping—to produce twenty bushels of wheat to the acre. We have made our calculations, guided by the past experience of practical farmers.

Seasons may come, too, when crops may fail. Farming, like everything else in this world, has its uncertain features, its drawbacks; but the drawbacks are only incidental. A man is always sure to raise enough for his support, in the worst of seasons, and he has his land, his home, and in a bountiful harvest forgets he ever had poor crops.

There is no State in the Union where there is a greater certainty of good average crops than in Minnesota, and in all our experience we have never known a case where an industrious, sober man, settled for some years on his own land, in this State, failed to make a good home for himself.

N. B.—All farming machinery can be bought on long time.

WATER AND FUEL.

Water and fuel are two great necessaries that must not be overlooked. Good water can be had all over Avoca Colony at a distance of from 15 to 25 feet from the surface, and for stock the rivers, creeks and lakes give a bountiful supply. In regard to fuel, Iowa coal is delivered at any of the railroad stations in the colony for about $5 a ton; wood can be had about nine miles from the center of the colony for $4 a cord; but during the summer most of the settlers burn twisted hay, and housekeepers prefer it for baking. There will be no want of fuel when coal can be had so readily, and two acres of good wheat can buy all the fuel a man could possibly use in a small house.

WHEN TO COME—WHAT TO BRING—RAILROAD FARES.

Decidedly the best time for the emigrant to come to Minnesota is the spring. If possible, he should not arrive later than the middle of April. He should have his land selected in time to commence to break for garden stuff, for flax and corn, then he can continue to break, for his next year's wheat crop, up to the early part of July. A man coming in the early part of June can have land broken for his next year's crop, but he loses the advantages of garden stuff, flax and sod corn, to help him out in his living until his first principal crop comes in.

Bring all your bedding that is of value; all your bedclothes; all wearing apparel; good clothing of every description; nothing more.

RAILROAD FARES FROM DIFFERENT POINTS.

	1st Class.	2d Class.	Immigrant.
New York	$35 25	$30 25	$24 00
Philadelphia	33 50	28 45	24 00
Montreal	36 25	26 00	.....
Toronto	29 25	23 00	.....
Buffalo	29 25	23 00	.....
Cleveland	25 55	20 00	.....
Chicago	15 25	12 00	.....
Milwaukee	12 25	9 00	.....

N. B.—The above are the fares from the points mentioned to St. Paul. Doubtless persons coming in a large party from the same place would get special low rates.

Persons going from St. Paul to Avoca get half rates ($3.00) by calling at the office of the Catholic Colonization Bureau, but the direct way for emigrants coming from the Eastern States or Europe to the Avoca Colony is to get their tickets direct to Fulda station, via LaCrosse, Wisconsin, over the Southern Minnesota Railroad.

Persons wishing any further information may apply directly to Rev. Chas. Koeberl, Avoca, Murray Co., Minnesota, or to

The Catholic Colonization Bureau,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

MINNESOTA.

ITS GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION—SIZE—OPINIONS OF DISTINGUISHED MEN—FERTILITY, BEAUTY AND HEALTHFULNESS OF THE STATE.

The State contains 83,153 square miles or 53,459,840 acres, and is, therefore, one of the largest in the Union. It occupies the exact centre of the continent of North America. It lies midway between the Arctic and Tropic circles—midway between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans—and midway between Hudson's Bay and the Gulf of Mexico. It embraces the sources of three vast water systems which reach their ocean termini, northward through Hudson's Bay, eastward through the chain of great lakes, and southward *via* the Mississippi River. It extends from 43½° to 49° of north latitude, and from 89° 29' to 97° 5' of west longitude; and is bounded on the north by the Winnipeg district of British

America, on the west by the Territory of Dakota, on the south by the State of Iowa, and on the east by Lake Superior and the State of Wisconsin.

In official reports before us, we find many interesting extracts from the writings of well-known public men, agriculturists, geologists, professors in various branches of science, engineers, surveyors and government officials, who have visited Minnesota at various times on business or pleasure, and who have borne enthusiastic testimony of her resources, the fertility of her soil, the healthfulness of her climate and the beauty of her scenery.

A few sentences from all these writings will suffice for us in this place.

In the official report of General Pope, who was commissioned by the government to make a topographical survey of portions of the State, we find the following sentence, which embraces almost all that can be said in praise. He says:

"I KNOW *of* NO COUNTRY *on* EARTH *where so* MANY *advantages are presented to the* FARMER AND MANUFACTURER."

The adaptability of our rich soil for all the staple crops, as proven by experience, the large yield per acre in wheat, oats, potatoes, &c., &c., the immense quantity of good land in large bodies, the truly magnificent water power within the State, and so beneficently located in its different sections; all these advantages, seen beneath a sky always bright, and in a climate at all seasons healthy, may well account for the enthusiasm which inspired the above eulogy on Minnesota.

The accredited correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, who visited this State some four years ago, is equally enthusiastic in his published letters to his paper. We give two extracts from those letters.

"No wonder the people here wear such smiling countenances. They are full of hope. I have yet to see the first despairing or gloomy face. Melancholy belongs to the overcrowded cities, and there is plenty of it in Chicago.

"Is it not astonishing that so many able-bodied men should hang about our large cities doing nothing, because they can find nothing to do, and nearly starving to death, when these broad and fertile prairies are calling upon them to come and release the treasures which lie within the soil.

"The resources of this State are immense. It has every variety of wealth, and every facility for profitable exchange. There is no more productive soil in the world. Then the State has an abundance of pine timber. It has a vast amount of available water power, and offers every facility and encouragement to manufacturing

industry. It has mineral wealth on Lake Superior of iron and copper, in inexhaustible abundance. There is no region in this country, or any country, that I am aware of, that is so well watered. And the water is everywhere clear and pure. It is a land of great rivers, pellucid lakes, and sparkling streams.

"All this may sound enthusiastic, but every word is calmly written and justified by the facts; and it is strictly within the facts. If the advantages of this region were only adequately made known, there would surely be a great flow of labor from the cities and places where it is not wanted, into a region like this, where every variety of labor is needed, and where it is certain to meet with a rich reward."

In the second extract we give, this correspondent expresses himself in language very similar to that made use of by General Pope. He says, still speaking of Minnesota:

"I know of no other portion of the earth's surface where so many advantages are concentrated, and where the man of industry and small means may so quickly and with so much certainty render himself independent. Here you have a climate of exceeding purity, a soil of amazing productiveness, abundance of the clearest water, with groves, and lakes, and rivers, and streams wherever they are wanted. Then the great railway lines are beginning to intersect this country in all directions, and thus furnish the farmer with a cheap and immediate outlet for his produce."

We will close these brief extracts—taken from the writings of persons well qualified to form a sound judgment on the subject they were discussing, and totally unconnected personally with the interests of Minnesota—with two extracts from a speech of the distinguished statesman, Hon. Wm. H. Seward, delivered in St. Paul, the capital of our State, so far back as 1860.

Mr. Seward said, and America has not produced so far-seeing a statesman:

"Here is the place—the central place—where the agriculture of the richest region of North America must pour out its tributes to the whole world. On the east, all along the shore of Lake Superior, and west, stretching in one broad plain in a belt quite across the continent, is a country where State after State is yet to rise, and where the productions for the support of human society in the old crowded States must be brought forth. * * *

"I now believe that the ultimate last seat of government on this great continent will be found, somewhere within a circle or radius not very far from the spot on which I stand, at the head of navigation on the Mississippi River."

GENERAL STATE STATISTICS.

LAKES, RIVERS, TIMBER, CLIMATE, SOIL, STOCK RAISING.

In the following we have borrowed much from authorized State reports, adding our own comments when necessary.

LAKES.

Minnesota abounds in lakes of great beauty. They are from one to fifty miles in diameter, and are well stocked with a variety of fish. Those beautiful lakes are found in every portion of the State, sparkling on the open prairie, hidden in groves, or resting calm and pure in the depths of the silent forest.

If we were writing a sketch book we would go into a full description of our lakes, for they are the pride and boast of Minnesotians. Long ago, the Red Man was captivated with their beauty and gave to this, his then demesne, its present poetic name—Minnesota: (Indian language—sky-tinted water.)

RIVERS.

Minnesota has five navigable rivers. The Mississippi (The Father of Waters,) having its rise in Lake Itaska, in the northern part of the State.

The St. Croix, flowing through a large portion of the lumbering region.

The Minnesota, rising in Dakota Territory and flowing through a large portion of the State empties into the Mississippi, five miles above St. Paul. It is navigable, in favorable seasons, about 300 miles.

The Red River of the North, forming the northwestern boundary of the State for a distance of 380 miles, and navigable about 250.

The St. Louis River, flowing into Lake Superior on our northeastern boundary, a distance of 135 miles.

Besides these, the largest rivers are the Root, Rum, Crow, Sauk, Elk, Long Prairie, Crow Wing, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Maple, Cobb, Watonwan, Snake, Kettle, Redwood, Wild Rice, Buffalo, Chippewa, Marsh, Pomme de Terre, Lac qui Parle, Mustinka, Yellow Medicine, Two Rivers, Cottonwood, Cannon, Zumbro, Whitewater, Cedar, Red Lake, Straight, Vermillion, and others. These, with a vast number of smaller streams tributary to them, ramify-

ing through fertile upland and grassy meadow, in every section of the State, afford invaluable facilities for the various purposes of lumbering, milling, manufacturing and agriculture.

In connection with her rivers, we will say that Minnesota has perhaps the finest water power, within her bounds, to be found in the world. This power is found all over the State, and though only very partially developed, it serves to manufacture 2,600,000 barrels of flour annually, and runs 250 saw mills.

TIMBER.

Minnesota is neither a timber nor a prairie State; yet it possesses in a large degree the advantages of both, there being unquestionably a better proportion of timber and prairie, and a more admirable intermingling of the two than in any other State. It is estimated that about one-third of Minnesota is timbered land, of more or less dense growth. In Iowa, it has been officially estimated that only about one-tenth to one-eighth of the State is timbered.

CLIMATE.

For health, for the full enjoyment of life, for that indescribable exhilaration of spirits which bright skies, a clear, dry atmosphere and pure air give, the climate of Minnesota cannot be surpassed.

Its mean yearly temperature (44.6) coincides with that of Central Wisconsin, Michigan, Central New York, Southern Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine; but in the dryness of its atmosphere it has, both for health and comfort, a great advantage over those States. It is well known that dampness is the element from whence come sickness and suffering, either in cold or warm weather, and the dry atmosphere of winter in Minnesota, at an average temperature of 16°, makes the cold less felt than in warmer but damper climates several degrees farther south.

We have in Minnesota about four months of what may be called winter, but the severe cold weather seldom comes before Christmas, and lasts only to about the 1st of March. To some this period is about the most enjoyable in the year. "Winter in Minnesota," says a late writer, "is a season of ceaseless business activity, and constant social enjoyment; and by those accustomed to long wintry storms, and continued alternations of mud, and cold, and snow, is pronounced far preferable to the winters in any section of the Northern States. Here there is an exhilaration in the crisp atmosphere which quickens the blood, and sends the bounding steps over the ringing snow with an exultant flurry of good-spirits akin to the highest enjoyment."

Doubtless this was written from the stand-point of warm robes, a light cutter, a fast horse, and tingling sleigh-bells; nevertheless it is in the main true. When the surface of the body is warmly clothed, one can enjoy out-door exercise in the winter with every comfort.

The summer months are pleasant. We have hot days, as one can judge by bearing in mind that our wheat crop is put into the ground, cut and often threshed, all within three months; but our nights are always beautiful and cool. Then comes autumn, when the wayside copse, blushing at the hot kisses of the sun, turns scarlet, and every tint of shade and color is seen in the variegated foliage of the forest; and then the hazy, Indian summer—nothing so lovely could last long on earth—when forest and prairie, dell and highland, palpitate with a hushed beauty, and to live is happiness sufficient.

Pure air is health, life. Winter and summer, fall and spring, the air of Minnesota, free from all malaria, is pure. We promise to the new settler, making a home on land in Minnesota, plenty of hard work, and the best of health and spirits—so far as climate has any effect on those blessings, and it has a great deal—while doing it. It will not be necessary for him to get acclimated, but to pitch right in.

Disturnell, author of a work on the "Influence of Climate in North and South America," says that "*Minnesota may be said to excel any portion of the Union in a healthy and invigorating climate.*"

In connection with this very important subject, health, the following comparative statement as to the proportion of deaths to population, in several countries in Europe and States in the Union, will be read with interest:

Minnesota	1 in 155	Wisconsin	1 in 108
Great Britain and Ireland	1 in 46	Iowa	1 in 93
Germany	1 in 37	Illinois	1 in 73
Norway	1 in 56	Missouri	1 in 51
Sweden	1 in 50	Michigan	1 in 88
Denmark	1 in 46	Louisiana	1 in 43
France	1 in 41	Texas	1 in 46
Switzerland	1 in 41	Pennsylvania	1 in 96
Holland	1 in 39	United States	1 in 74

The above is so conclusive an exhibit in confirmation of the healthfulness of the Minnesota climate, that it exhausts the subject.

SOIL.

Under this head, the late J. B. Phillips, Commissioner of Statistics, says:

"The soil of the arable part of the State is generally of the best

quality, rich in lime and organic matter, and particularly well adapted to the growth of wheat, over 26,400,000 bushels of which cereal were produced in 1873, and over 30,000,000 in 1875. Although its fertility has never been disputed, these authentic figures prove it beyond question. Good wheat lands in a favorable season will produce from 25 to 30 bushels to the acre. I believe the whole county of Goodhue, in a yield of between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 bushels, very nearly averaged the first figures in 1875. A great portion of the State is equally adapted to stock raising, and many farmers think it would be more profitable."

We will add to this, by way of a note, that in 1877, Minnesota, with only 3,000,000 acres of her land under cultivation, produced 35,000,000 bushels of wheat, almost all No. 1 quality, and that Goodhue County, mentioned in the extract quoted, had a yield of 4,050,250 bushels.

According to the report of the United States Commissioner of Agriculture for 1877, the average yield of wheat per acre for that year was:

In Minnesota	18.5 bushels.	In Indiana	14.5 bushels.
" Illinois	16.5 "	" Iowa	14.5 "
" Ohio	15 "	" Missouri	14 "
" Wisconsin	15 "	" Kansas	13.5 "
" Nebraska	15 "	" California	9.5 "

What the gold mines of the Pacific slope have been to California, her rich soil has been to Minnesota, while the classes attracted here by our agricultural resources, and broad wheat fields, cannot be surpassed in any country, as intelligent, law-abiding, peaceful, industrious citizens.

STOCK RAISING.

We know of no country where stock, horses and sheep, do better than in Minnesota, and we believe that it will be found true that the climate conducive to the health of human beings is one where all kinds of domestic animals will thrive.

We had, some time ago, a very interesting conversation with Mr. Featherston, an English gentleman residing in Goodhue County, on this subject.

He informed us that he had farmed in England, in the State of New York, in Kansas, and now in Minnesota, and he was never in a place where sheep and stock did better than here. "I attribute this," he said "to the dryness of our winter weather. Sheep here are not weighed down with wet fleeces; and as for cattle, they suffer more in southern Kansas, where they can remain out all the year, than they do here in the coldest days of winter."

"How is that?" we asked.

"Easily accounted for," he replied, "One part of the day, in Kansas, it will be raining, the coats of the cattle will be saturated with wet, then it comes on to freeze, and they become sheeted with ice; this is very injurious to the health of a beast. Sheep raising in Minnesota I have found very profitable farming indeed."

"What about the soil of Minnesota?" we asked.

"Well," he replied, "I was home in England two years ago, traveled about a good deal, and did not see any soil equal to the soil of Minnesota."

CROPS.

Crops.	1879.		1880.
	Acres.	Bus.	Acres.
Wheat	2,762,521	31,218,634	2,963,325
Oats	567,371	20,623,175	688,415
Rye	11,534	172,887	11,688
Corn	379,766	12,892,563	455,514
Barley	96,951	2,413,199	118,856
Buckwheat	3,380	33,163	3,177
Beans	2,156	24,434	2,105
Flaxseed	12,966	99,378	45,236
Potatoes	37,910	3,915,890	40,618

	Acres.		Acres.
Amber Syrup	5,033	Galls., 446,946	7,317
Cultivated Hay	145,150	Tons, 194,994	146,928
Wild Hay	.....	" 1,200,506	.....
Hops	13	Lbs., 4,071	37
Other Products	18,323	.....	20,545
Cultivated Area	4,043,074	.....	4,503,761
Apple Trees, bearing.....No.,	269,186	.....No.,	299,319
" " growing..... "	1,121,779	..... "	1,160,240

	1879.	1880.
Apples.....Bus.,	124,261	....
Timothy Seed..... "	39,376	....
Clover Seed..... "	18,460	....
Butter.....lbs.,	15,639,069	....
Cheese..... "	586,448	....
Honey..... "	208,018	....
Grapes..... "	135,086	....
Strawberries.....qts.,	237,626	....
Tobacco.....lbs,	65,089	....
Sheep.....No.,	206,477	223,791
Wool.....lbs.,	948,184	925,278
No. of Farms in 1880		40,618
Average area cultivated per farm.....acres,		111

Returns not in yet.

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY OF THE STATE.

Under this head we give the following figures: they speak for themselves.

Calculated area in the State:

1850,	1,900 acres.
1860,	433,267 "
1870,	1,863,316 "
1877,	2,896,496 "
1880,	4,389,651 "

ASSESSED VALUE OF PROPERTY.

1860,	$36,743,408
1870,	87,133,673
1880,	269,000,000

But the latter sum does not include the entire wealth of the State by a great deal, for the 3,100 miles of railway now in operation, with rolling stock, stations and other property, is not assessed, because the companies pay a percentage of the earnings of the roads as their tax. There are likewise, some 3,350 school houses; three normal schools; a university; two insane asylums; an institute for deaf, dumb and blind; a soldiers' orphans' home; reform school; penitentiary; about fifty court houses, county jails and poorhouses and farms; eight or ten hospitals; a score of charitable institutions; some twelve hundred churches; and considerable other property devoted to educational, charitable, or religious purposes, which is not taxed, and does not, therefore, appear on the assessment rolls. To say nothing of thousands of bridges and wagon roads.

POPULATION.

1860,	172,000
1880,	780,000

RAILROADS.

In 1863, Minnesota had nine miles of railroad; in 1880, now in operation, 3,100 miles, with many new lines building and projected.

WHAT MINNESOTA HAS DONE IN TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

The following is an extract from a speech delivered the other day by our worthy Governor, J. S. Pillsbury, at an agricultural fair in this State. After enumerating to his audience most of the things we had not twenty-five years ago, the governor went on to say:

"Mark what a change has been wrought in twenty-five years. To-day there are eight trunk railroads that reach our borders, and we have more than 3,000 miles of completed railroad in our state, stretching from the Mississippi to the Missouri river. Seven railroad lines stretch across our state from east to west, all taxed to their utmost capacity to transport our multiplied products to the markets of the world. The great Northern Pacific railway will soon reach the Pacific cost, opening up new sources and markets for our varied products. To-day we have a population of 800,000 of healthy, prosperous and happy people. The mails are supplied to the people throughout our state by the trunk lines of railroad twice and three times a day from New York, Boston, Chicago and the east. Our state is dotted with villages and cities, containing extensive machinery capable of turning out engines and boilers of the largest size and most improved patterns, with all varieties of machinery for the wants of the state.

"More than 2,000 run of mill stones are daily running and manufacturing the best quality of flour for supplying the markets of the country. Manufactories are being continually started for the production of nearly all classes of goods and merchandise. Our farmers have now more than 4,000,000 acres of land under cultivation, producing annually 40,000,000 bushels of the finest quality of wheat, and nearly 100,000,000 bushels of the four principal cereals."

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION LAW.

We are proud of the Homestead Law of Minnesota. The State says to its citizen: you may be unfortunate, even culpably improvident, nevertheless you and your family shall not be left homeless or without means to enable you to retrieve past misfortunes or faults.

The law reads—

"That a homestead consisting of any quantity of land not exceeding eighty acres, and the dwelling house thereon and its appurtenances, to be selected by the owner thereof, and not included in any incorporated town, city or village, or instead thereof, at the option of the owner, a quantity of land not exceeding in amount one lot, being within an incorporated town, city or village, and the dwelling house thereon and its appurtenances, owned and occupied by any resident of this State, shall not be subject to attachment, levy, or sale, upon any execution or any other process issuing out of any court within this State. This

section shall be deemed and construed to exempt such homestead in the manner aforesaid during the time it shall be occupied by the widow or minor child or children of any deceased person who was, when living, entitled to the benefits of this act."

Thus the State, in its bountiful protection, says to its citizen: "You may be unfortunate, even blamably improvident, nevertheless the State shall not allow you and yours to be thrown paupers on the world. Your homestead is still left to you, a competency at least."

N. B.—This State law applies to all real estate within the State, without distinction. It makes no difference whether the settler holds under Governmont title, railroad title, or any other title, his home and eighty acres of land are secure from all law process.

There are also reserved for the settler, free from all law processes, all his household furniture up to the value of $300, 3 horses, or in lieu 1 horse and yoke of oxen, 2 cows, 11 sheep, 3 hogs, wagon, harness, and all his farming machinery and implements; also a year's supply of family provisions for growing crops, and fuel, and seed grain not exceeding 50 bushels each of wheat and oats, 5 of potatoes, and one of corn, also mechanics' or miners' tools, with $400 worth of stock-in-trade, and the library and instruments of professional men.

This is the beneficent protection which the State throws around the poor man's home.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 016 097 023 6